

09/892,684

MS174305.01/MSFTP256US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates employment of a pluggable formatter, comprising:
 - a decision module ~~operable to retrieve~~ that retrieves a first data structure;
 - a plurality of rule sets that define serialization information about data structure types;
 - a serialization selector ~~adapted to determine~~ that determines a rule set of the plurality of rule sets to provide to the decision module based on the data structure type, the decision module populating a second data structure based on the serialization information and providing a pluggable formatter with the second data structure, so that the pluggable formatter can serialize the second data structure to an externalized format defined by the pluggable formatter.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the rule set ~~being~~ is definable in the data structure.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the rule set ~~being~~ is defined in a third party file.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the rule set ~~being~~ is a default format based on markings in the first data structure.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, the first data structure being an object.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the decision module ~~being adapted to retrieve~~ retrieves a graph of objects one object at a time for serialization.

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7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, further comprising an object ID generator coupled to the decision module, the object ID generator being adapted to assign assigns object IDs to each object in the graph of objects.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, the data structure containing information within the data structure that the serialization selector utilizes in determining a rule set.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the decision module being is integrated into the pluggable formatter.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates employment of a pluggable formatter, comprising:

a formatter services component adapted to receive that receives a decoded serialized stream from a pluggable formatter and create creates a data structure for deserialization of the decoded serialized stream; and

an object manager adapted to track that tracks data in the decoded serialized stream and determine determines forward references to additional data to provide fixups to the data structure upon receipt of the additional data.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising a serialization selector adapted to determine that determines a rule set of a plurality of rule sets to provide to the formatter services component based on the data structure type being serialized, the formatting services component populating populates the data structure based on the determined rule set.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, the rule set being is definable in the data structure.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, the rule set being defined is in a third party file.

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15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, the formatter services component being adapted to reinstantiate reinstantiates each object of a graph of objects and the object manager performing performs fixups on the objects after the graph of objects have been deserialized.

17-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method for deserialization of a stream into a graph of objects, the method comprising:

receiving a decoded serialized stream from a pluggable formatter;
retrieving an object from decoded serialized stream;
determining an object type for deserialization;
instantiating an uninitialized instance of the object type;
selecting a serialization rule set from one of a user defined rule set in the object, a user defined rule set in another object and a default rule set; and
populating the uninitialized instance of the object type based on the selected serialization rule set.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising registering the object with an object manager.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising tracking forward references to other objects within the object.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising repeating retrieving, determining, instantiating and populating for each object in an object graph.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising performing fixups on the objects in the object graph caused by forward references.

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37-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates making formatters pluggable, the system comprising:

means for providing serialization information of an object to a pluggable formatter, so that the pluggable formatter can serialize the object in a selectable externalized format;

means for tracking deserialization of the object outside the pluggable formatter; and

means for instantiating an uninitialized instance of an object type, so that the object information can populate the object type; and

means for performing fixups on the objects due to forward references.

50. (Cancelled).